

REMARKS

Claims 1-33, 49 and 50 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 8, 21-33 and 49 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. With this amendment, independent claim 21 has been amended to be generic to the elected species and consideration of claim 21 and claims dependent therefrom is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-5, 10, 16-20 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-188636 to Nippon Zeon in view of EP 424833 to Goodall et al. The Examiner states that the norbornene based resin member teaches Applicants' claimed present invention in combination with Goodall wherein the JP '636 reference may include fillers or reinforcing material which can be the fiber reinforcement claimed, and an elastomer material which can be Applicants' second substrate, with the norbornene monomers being Applicants' claimed metathesizable material. The Examiner agrees that the adhesive in the JP '636 reference is not the metathesizable material. The Examiner states that the claims do not define over the Examiner's interpretation of the JP '636 molded norbornene resin member.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references cannot teach or suggest Applicants' method for forming a composite structure as claimed. Independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended to further define that the fibrous substrate and the second substrate are articles. As set forth in the application on at least page 32, third full paragraph, the substrates of the invention are articles of manufacture that are themselves useful. Accordingly, the substrates are articles such as, but not limited to, machine parts made from metal or elastomers, molded articles, extruded articles, layered materials such as sheets or coil, or the like. Accordingly, Applicants' claims are clearly novel in view of the cited references and cannot be anticipated, nor taught or suggested thereby. As argued in the previous response to Office Action, the JP '636 reference molded norbornene base resin material cannot teach Applicants' claimed article. The JP '636 reference can only teach forming a single molded article from norbornene monomers and optionally other components such as an elastomer as noted by the Examiner.

In view of the amendment to claim 1, the JP '636 and Goodall references cannot teach or suggest Applicants' method for bonding a fibrous substrate article to a second substrate article. Moreover, the cited references teach away from Applicants' claimed method step of providing a catalyst at a fibrous substrate article surface. The cited references also cannot teach or suggest contacting the catalyst on the fibrous substrate article surface with a metathesizable material. Also, the cited references cannot teach or suggest contacting the fibrous substrate article surface with the second substrate article surface whereby bonding occurs by curing of the metathesizable material therebetween.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 16-20 and 50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (US Patent No. 5,137,785) taken in view of EP 424833 to Goodall et al. The Examiner states that Suzuki discloses bonding a norbornene based resin substrate member formed by metathesis polymerization to surface layers of an olefin polymer or thermoplastic elastomer. The Examiner states it would have been obvious to include a fibrous filler in the polymerization of the norbornene based resin substrate member.

As set forth hereinabove, claim 1 has been amended to further define over the cited references. It is respectfully submitted that the Suzuki and Goodall references cannot anticipate, nor teach or suggest the present invention method for bonding a fibrous substrate article to a second substrate article as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 21. As previously argued, the Suzuki reference can only teach polymerizing norbornene type monomers to a polymer sheet. There is no teaching or suggestion for providing a separate fibrous substrate article, much less the step of providing a catalyst at the fibrous substrate article surface. One of ordinary skill in the art in view of Applicants' specification would readily understand that the claimed articles are articles of manufacture and cannot be taught or suggested by monomers or filler particles. Likewise, neither Suzuki nor Goodall teaches, as claimed, contacting the catalyst on the fibrous substrate article surface with a metathesizable material, and contacting the fibrous substrate article surface including the metathesizable material with a second substrate article surface whereby bonding between the articles occurs by curing the metathesizable material therebetween.

Claims 11-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-188636 to Nippon Zeon taken in view of EP 424833 to Goodall et al. or Suzuki et al. (US 5,137,785) taken in view of EP 424833 to Goodall et al. as applied above, and further in view of the admitted state of the prior art as applied in the last office action.

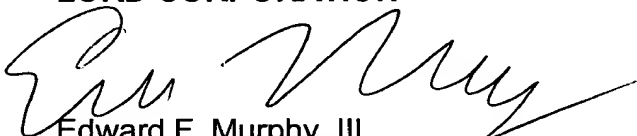
In view of the arguments presented hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references cannot teach or suggest the invention claimed in independent claims 1 and 21, and claims dependent therefrom.

Notice that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is greatly appreciated.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice of such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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